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22 December 1959
Control No. 166/55

MEMORANDUM FOR: Department of Commerce DCP Representative

ATTENTION : R.W. Lindsay

FROM : CIA DCP Representative

SUBJECT : "Zecorex"

REFERENCE : (1) [REDACTED] 23 June 1959
(2) [REDACTED] 22 September 1959

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1. The following memorandum is submitted at Mr. Lindsay's request.

2. Reference 1 notes the West German firm, Cohama's, interest in identifying the U.S. manufacturer of a chemical product named "Zecorex". The Consulate General hypothesized that the firm was actually interested in "Zecolox" manufactured by the Huber Corp. in New York. DCP later speculated that it was actually "Zerax" anti-freeze that Cohama was anxious to obtain. Subsequently, reference 2 reported that Cohama was offering Hungarian and Polish agencies various unspecified electrical apparatuses for the atomic industry."

3. One possibility that does not appear to have been explored is that Cohama was referring to Zec-Rex, a trade name for a sulfonated, coal type, acid resistant cation (positive ion) exchanger. The manufacturer of this commodity is The Permutit Company, 338 West 42nd St., New York City. Zec-Rex has important atomic energy implications indicating that the Cohama's request may stem from its negotiations with the Polish and Hungarian agencies mentioned in reference 2. While Cohama may never have identified the Permutit firm as the producer of Zec-Rex, it might be possible to determine this in the course of your investigation of Cohama. Ion exchange resins are non Positive List commodities and might have been shipped to Cohama under General License.

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